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Arizona Water Initiative Cochise Planning Area Stakeholder Update Meeting Summary

Date: August 10, 2016
Time: 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Location: Willcox Community Center – Main Hall
312 W Stewart St
Willcox, AZ 85643

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. ADWR Cochise Planning Area Coordinator Natalie Mast opened the meeting by welcoming stakeholders, describing the structure of the meeting, and reviewing ongoing ADWR and Arizona Water Initiative activities.
- b. **NOTE:** Correction made to announcement regarding ADWR booth at Cochise County Fair – the correct dates for ADWR’s attendance at that event are September 23 and 24.

2. Data Collection Plan

- a. Ms. Mast presented a summary of ADWR’s ongoing data collection activities, methods, and strategies.

3. Discussion of Updated Municipal Water Demand Projections

- a. Ms. Mast presented a summary of the process by which municipal water demand data was updated, and discussed options for various methods of projecting data.
 - o Several stakeholders had questions regarding calculations, data sources, and validity, and reliability.
 - o Several stakeholders gave feedback that efforts should not be focused on municipal demands, as it is a very small portion of total demand.
 - o Several stakeholders had questions regarding how this data would be used or applied. Ms. Mast clarified that this data update process is separate from other processes, and would be used in Arizona Water Initiative reports and taken into consideration when developing potential solution sets.

4. Presentation on Funding Opportunities for Rural Communities

- a. Ms. Mast presented a summary of various grants, loans, and programs that are available for individual homeowners or for water systems to address different types of needs and issues.
 - Contact information for each funding organization can be found in the presentation.
 - Individual handouts for each program were available at the meeting, and are available upon request by contacting Ms. Mast at nlmast@azwater.gov or (602)771-4646.

5. Preliminary Discussion of Regulatory Components of Management Options

- a. Ms. Mast presented a summary of several components of existing water managements statutes. This information is intended to serve as an introduction to some details within existing law in order to facilitate discussions regarding alternative regulatory frameworks at future meetings.
 - A handout for this discussion was missing during the meeting, but is [available online](#).

6. General Comment

- a. A stakeholder expressed concern regarding the potential for decreased land values.
- b. A stakeholder expressed support for development of an alternative option to an INA or AMA.
- c. A stakeholder asked what other Planning Areas are saying regarding previously irrigated acres or capital investment. ADWR Deputy Assistant Director Gerry Walker provided information regarding the existing statutory framework, the situation in other Planning Areas, and the process by which significant capital investment in an AMA or INA can be applied.
- d. A stakeholder asked what other Planning Areas ADWR is working with. Ms. Walker answered that in addition to Cochise Planning Area, there is work being done in the West Basins and Northwest Basins Planning Areas.
- e. A stakeholder expressed the need for a recognition of prior investment on land, regardless of the timing of that past irrigation or investment, and the need to not penalize those who are working to help the aquifer by not irrigating. The stakeholder also related experience with the group that worked toward developing a “3rd option” management framework, and expressed that new discussions and ideas for water management are complicated and take a long time to develop.
- f. A stakeholder asked whether Douglas was regulated. Ms. Mast responded that Douglas is an INA (Irrigation Non-Expansion Area) and therefore there are certain regulations for water use

7. Closing Remarks

- a. Staff thanked group for attendance, participation, and feedback. Stakeholder contributions will be sorted through, and individuals will be notified by email when the next meeting is scheduled. Any questions or further feedback are greatly appreciated and can be directed to Ms. Mast at nlmast@azwater.gov or (602)771-4646.